

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The effective introduction of foreign genes and other biologically active molecules into targeted mammalian cells is a challenge still facing those skilled in the art. Gene therapy, for example, requires successful transfection of target cells in a patient. The present invention relates to novel micellar complexes of cationic amphiphilic compounds that facilitate delivery of biologically active molecules to the targeted cells of a mammal. The novel micellar complexes are comprised of a cationic amphiphile, a biologically active molecule, a derivative of polyethylene glycol (PEG), and optionally, a co-lipid. A further aspect of the invention is the use of targeting agents in any of the methods that effectuate the delivery of biologically active molecules into the cells of mammals. A targeting agent is usually any molecule, peptide sequence, or large protein that preferentially targets or binds to specific mammalian cells.

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